GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
BPL Farmers
Bidhuri Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of farmers living below poverty line in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the welfare schemes being implemented for these farmers during the last three years, scheme and State-wise; and

(d) the number of farmers benefitted therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) &(b): Government conducts large sample surveys through NSSO for periodical estimation of population living below poverty line, including both farm and non-farm rural population.

According to the erstwhile Planning Commission's estimates based on National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) Survey, in 2011-12 the rural population living below poverty line (BPL) was 216.65 million. Separate estimate on the number of farmers living Below Poverty Line is not available. A statement on state wise population below poverty line is annexed.

(c) & (d): The Government is implementing various schemes for the welfare of farmers. Major schemes and the number of beneficiaries are as follows:-

(i) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Insurance Scheme: under the two schemes 172.67 lakh farmers covering 195 lakh hectares of area was insured for a sum of Rs. 73,251 crore during rabi 2016-17. This scheme is being implemented in 21 states.

(ii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana : Under the "Per Drop More Crop" a total of 1,45,687 hectares of land have been irrigated. The total allocation for this scheme in 2017-18 is Rs. 2,498 crore and the Government has already released Rs. 521.50 crore. This scheme is being implemented in 29 States and 1 Union Territory.

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(iii) Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana : Till December, 2016 State Governments have made 9,186 clusters while in 2015-16 it was 8,000 clusters. The budget estimate for 2017-18 is Rs. 350 crore. This scheme is being implemented in 29 States and 1 Union Territory.

(iv) Soil Health Card & Neem Coated Urea: As on 11.07. 2017, the target of collection of 253 lakh soil samples has been achieved; and 97 percent of these samples have been tested. The sales of Neem Coated Urea (NCU) for the year 2016-17 was 295.35 lakh MT.

(v) National Agricultural Market (e-NAM): Under this scheme 455 mandis of 13 states and 48.45 lakh farmers, 91,500 traders and 48,357 commission agents have been integrated with e-NAM Portal.

Apart from these schemes, Government also announces Minimum Support Price to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.